

FORMER EMPLOYE WRITES LETTERS THAT TELL OF BIG DRIVE

FRANCIS J. MAGIN SAW MUCH
OF BATTLE AS DID ALSO
OTHER LOCAL MEN.

From time to time this paper has been privileged to publish some of the letters which our old employee—hardly know whether to say employee or not, because Francis was just like one of the family—but before the war he operated the linotype in the News office and was an employee of the office and this week we are glad to publish three of the boy's letters, which tell more than he has ever let out about the war in his previous letters. His letters are written in a hospital and are as follows:

Oct. 17, 1918.

Dear Parents and All:
Here I am in place I have never intended to get into. I am in an American hospital and am doing along fine and I expect to go back to the company in a week or less. Don't think I have been wounded for I haven't. I have just been gassed and am here having my eyes treated and resting. The first night after being gassed was a little painful and I couldn't open my eyes for anything. I had to be led around the same way as we used to lead Grandpa but they didn't let me fall.

I got into the worst barrage I ever was in while up at the front this last time and that is when I got mine. The shells were going over so fast and thick one couldn't tell which way they were coming from so all we could do was keep down and pray that none would find us and kill us. I sure hugged the wet ground that morning all right and believe me when those shells came over any one could almost sink themselves into the ground by falling down. A hole in the ground sure does look good to a soldier when a barrage is going on. After traveling in ambulances and a bus and a train I finally arrived at this hospital on Sunday night and have been gaining ever since. This is the first time I have been allowed to write so don't blame me. I hope this reaches you before long. I will try and write again before I leave here. I sure am getting a good rest here. I lie in bed most all the time and wouldn't need to get out at all if I don't want to.

It sure is nice here and seems a little like home as two of the nurses came from Camp Custer and one worked in the Belding hospital last winter and was trained in Blodgett hospital, Grand Rapids. I wish she was here right now and perhaps it is just as well that she isn't here. It is awful hard work and I hope she will stay in the States for a while yet.

I have been getting mail very regular until I came here and I surely appreciated it too. I just got a letter from Lucy and Victoria the night before I went on the line and those were the last I got.

Well folks, don't worry over me as I am feeling fine, perhaps a little lazy. One can't help but get well with the care of these good Red Cross nurses, they are just great.

Give my love and best wishes to all at home. Good bye for this time. Your loving son and brother,
Francis.

Oct. 21, 1918.

Dear Parents and All:
Here I am still in bed. One looking at me at first glance might think I am sick but I'm not. I am ready to go back to the company but the doctor don't seem to think so and perhaps he knows best. I like it here and couldn't have got into a better hospital but I'd much rather be back where I know more boys than I do here.

They have quit treating my eyes but are still giving me some kind of medicine for my throat as I still have a little cough and sore throat but that is going away now so I will be all right in a day or two.

I don't know what you would do if it wasn't for these Red Cross nurses we have here, as one of them was kind enough to bring me two of her envelopes so I could send two letters out and another one brought me about a dozen the other day for which you can be as thankful as I am. I was telling you how much I would like some chocolate and what you know about it, she brought me a full bar of it that night when she came back from her supper. Gee, but the nurses are just as good to us boys as they can be and when you give anything to the Red Cross you can rest assured that you are doing something worth while. They come around and say "Goodnight" and in the morning they come to each one and ask how he feels with a pleasant "Good Morning."

I have been wondering whether you have heard from John yet or not. I haven't heard from him but the once when he was still in England. I am as liable to meet him "over here" as I am to find a thousand dollars and you know how lucky I am. I forgot to tell you in my last letter that I received a letter from David. I wish you would tell him I received it o. k. and that I will answer it before long.

The sun is shining nice and bright and I would like to be out in it but there is no use of me wishing anything like that. The only pleasant thing I can think of is that supper will be around in about an hour from now. They even bring that to me.

Well, dear ones, I must close for this time, hoping there will be plenty of mail for me when I return to the company. Your loving son and brother,
Francis.

Oct. 25, 1918.

Dear Sister, Brother and Niece:
I have been over two days in making up my mind to write this letter and nearly put it off until tomorrow but at last I have got it at it and now I don't know what to tell you outside of how I am getting along, unless I (Continued on Page Three.)

Well Known Man Passes.

John Reynolds, aged 69 years, died suddenly Thursday morning at his home on Alderman street, following a very short illness caused by indigestion of an acute nature. Mr. Reynolds had been around the city Wednesday, and in the afternoon he had returned from town and before he retired for the night he told his daughter, Lulu, that he would wait until the morning to attend to some matters which he might have taken care of that night. At 2 o'clock Thursday morning Miss Reynolds heard him moving about and she came down to investigate. Miss Reynolds found him quite ill and within a short time he was dead, despite the fact that all was done for him that could be done. Mr. Reynolds was a fine old man, well liked by all who knew him and those who were used to seeing his familiar figure around town and at the depot crossing were frequently called as supply man, will miss friendly greetings greatly. Although incapacitated by illness from doing any heavy work, Mr. Reynolds had the spirit and would gladly do as much for a neighbor as he would do for himself. His was a nature which did not measure his friends by their financial circumstances, but by their real Christian worth and in his passing a good man is gone forever.

Mr. Reynolds is survived by three daughters, Miss Lulu Reynolds of this city, with whom he lived, Mrs. Inez Leighton of Blanchard and Mrs. Frank Gerred of Boyne Falls. Also by four brothers, Will and Richard of Ionia, Guy of Kalamazoo and Deos of Belding, and one sister, Mrs. Millie Conner of this city. The funeral was held from his home here on Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock, Rev. Norton officiating and the remains were taken to Blanchard, where Rev. Grimm officiated and the remains were laid to rest beside those of the wife who preceded him into the Great Beyond, the day following.

Notice.

I am prepared to do your moving, long or short distance trucking and drag work on short notice and at right prices. Give me a call when you have anything in this line. Phone 144.

Low McLean,
722 Pearl Street.

MASONS ELECT OFFICERS AT ANNUAL MEETING

JAMES M. LANGSTON IS HONOR-
ED WITH WORSHIPFUL MAS-
TER OFFICE—LODGE IS IN
NOLLIDNOO ENIA

The annual meeting of Belding lodge, No. 335, F. & A. M., was held Monday night at which reports from the secretary, treasurer and trustees for the year just ended were received, showing the lodge in excellent condition as to finance, membership and its social and fraternal activities. The lodge has a membership of more than 200 and aside from its regular Masonic work the lodge is well equipped with all conveniences for the enjoyment of the social life of the fraternity and the friends of the members.

At the meeting after the close of routine business the following excellent corps of officers was elected and installed for the ensuing year and the outlook for a progressive and prosperous one in Masonic circles in the city is very bright. The retiring worshipful master, Arthur Foss, made a brief address and thanked the members for their hearty cooperation during his term of office.

Worshipful master—James M. Langston.
Senior warden—Edwy Webster.
Junior warden—Wesley Porter.
Secretary—B. Moore.
Treasurer—W. Lee Cusser.
Senior deacon—C. N. Wilson.
Junior deacon—Mark Leetch.
Tyler—Frank Howe.
Chaplain—Henry J. Leonard.
Stewards—Milo Peterson, Allen Tuttle.

Vern Brown was reelected house committee and was the installing officer assisted by Earl Wilson as grand marshal.

A Card From Old "Chick."
The editor is in receipt of the following card from Al Cichy, formerly proprietor of "Chick's ready-to-wear store" in this city and until more recently employed in the Celrite grocery up until the time of his enlistment. The wording on the card was as follows: "Dear Old Top: Please send me a Banner-News, last class mail. Get my address from Briker. France sure is some nice country. Have seen lots of England and Ireland. The French girls have them all beat. Very nice. Have lost all track of the Belding boys since I got to France. Give the O. K. Celrite, The Daves, Frank Howe, The Red Onion Cafe bunch, Old Man Waldo, Roy Crammer and all my friends my best regards. I have taken my belt up two extra notches since I got across. I do not know when I'll get back, but I'm coming back to the best town on the map some day. Regards, Pvt. Aloysius L. Cichy, U. S. Army, A. E. F."

Is Pushing Holland Furnaces.
Guy M. Smith, of Ionia, former proprietor of a plumbing and heating shop in this city and who removed to Ionia a year ago so that he would reside in the city where his business headquarters would be, was in the office Monday morning and ordered an advertisement inserted in this paper to be run on the front page and at twice the regular rates, at that, telling about the service which he could give with the installation of one of the famous Holland furnaces. Guy says that he has been pushing the installation of these warm friend-makers and that he has sold 16 of them in this city this fall, with still more on his order list to be installed. Guy says that anyone installing a Holland will never regret the action.

Is This Your Last Issue?

To some of our readers this paper is the last issue because of the fact that they have failed to come in and see us about their subscription account and we must cut them off our list next week unless they do so.

If you do not wish the paper to stop and cannot pay at present, come in and tell us about it, but we must know your intention and wishes to continue it if you are more than three months in arrears.

This is not our action but it is a government order.

Don't fail to come in and see us so that we can fix your subscription up and keep the good old home town paper coming regularly each week.

The Publishers

FIRST DISCHARGED SOLDIER RETURNS TO CIVILIAN LIFE

HARRY HOLMES, CADET, IN AERIAL SERVICE MUSTERED OUT AT FT. MONROE, VA.

The first soldier in the national army to receive his honorable discharge and return to his home in this city was Harry Holmes, son of Mrs. Martha Holmes and he was mustered out at Ft. Monroe, Va. Tuesday, November 26, arriving home Saturday evening, November 30, after having been in the nation's service about a year during which time he has taken a hard course of study and training and should the war have continued longer, he might have been over in France within a short time doing active work with the flyers.

Harry enlisted in the aviation service and his standings in his studies had always been of the highest, the result of constant application to the work which he must take before receiving his commission as a flyer and as a result of this Cadet Holmes was in line for and would have received a commission as a lieutenant in the aerial service had he been kept in the service another week or so. After this he would shortly have been sent overseas and the chances are that he would have been flying within a short time.

Harry said that the government paid him in full at the time when he was mustered out and that they also handed him the money to travel home with, allowing him three and one-half cents per mile for travelling expenses and that when he bought his ticket for home, he could get and did get a two cent and one-half per mile incidentals. The supposition had gained some ground here that the soldiers, after being mustered out, would have to pay their own way home at the two cent per mile rate, but the government pays them for the trip beforehand.

Holmes is the first local man who has been mustered out and returned home. There are a number of others who are enroute to mustering out stations, but who have not as yet been mustered out, who will perhaps shortly return home to civilian life.

"The Light in the Clearing."

Notice—\$10 Reward.
We will give the above reward for information which will lead to the conviction of persons shooting out or breaking lamps from the street lighting system.

Spencer Electric Light & Power Co.

Ladies' Literary Exchange Club.
On Thursday afternoon, Nov. 21, the ladies met in their new club room in the City library building after a suspension of several weeks on account of the prevalence of flu.

For the study of the afternoon, Mrs. Carrie Lloyd read an interesting paper prepared by Mrs. Mary Barnes on "Noted Women of History" and Mrs. Blanche Willoughby a paper on "Noted Women of Today," which was especially good after which followed a discussion of both papers. Mrs. Rena Trull gave the first chapter of the year's serial story which was of high order. Mrs. Marcia Ireland gave a most delightful informal talk on the Sandwich Islands and her impressions from her three years spent there and all members not present missed a rare treat not only from the pleasure Mrs. Ireland gave but also from the entire program.

Gleaner Notice.
The regular Gleaner meeting of Grattan harbor, No. 372, to be held with Companions Mr. and Mrs. Will Pierson Saturday, Dec. 6, will be postponed until further notice.

Fannie McArthur, Lecturer.

PICK OUT THE GOOD ONES COMERS AT THE EMPRESS

Friday—Vivian Martin in "The Fair Barbarian." A Lasky-Paramount.

Saturday—Ethel Barrymore in a Metro play, "Our Mrs. McChesney." This was also Miss Barrymore's big stage success last season.

Sunday and Monday—Mae Marsh in a Goldwyn, "Money Mad."

Tuesday—"America's Answer," second U. S. government war film which is a patriotic duty that all should see.

Thursday and Friday—"The Whip," one of the biggest screen successes.

CORP. OWENS IS HOME AND IN BAD SHAPE

Frank Owens, stationary engineer at the Pere Marquette shops, returned last night from Minneapolis, Minn., where he went a few days ago to bring his son, Corp. Carl Owens, back to Ionia. Corp. Owens is an Ionia boy, enlisted early in 1917 and left with Company D, 126th infantry when they sailed for France. A short time ago he was invalided home from the service and sent to Ft. Snelling, Minn., suffering from paralysis of the lower limbs caused by diphtheria. The young man, who is married, was formerly employed in the paint department of the Pere Marquette shops. His home is on Lincoln avenue. He is said to be in a serious condition. Ionia Standard. Corp. Owens is the husband of Mrs. Belle Owens, formerly Miss Belle Anbuhl, and his many local friends will learn of the above with genuine regret.

Showered Recent Bride.

The lady friends of Mrs. Stanley Hulbert, formerly Rebecca Balcom, met at the home of Mrs. Frank Gamber Tuesday evening and gave her a miscellaneous shower at which the young bride was the recipient of many useful and valuable gifts.

A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP AT EAST END GROCERY

ROY CRAMMER, FORMER PROPRIETOR SELLS TO LOCAL MEN—WILL GO SOUTH.

A change of ownership took place Monday morning in the East End grocery store when Arthur Waite and Edwy Webster, two well known and highly respected local men took over possession of the same, having purchased the business, stock and good will from Roy Crammer, who had owned it for a number of years past. The deal had been pending for some time back, but the inventory was taken Sunday and the new owners stepped in and grabbed hold of the reins on Monday morning bright and early and since that time groceries have been moving something rapidly in the east end of the city.

Each one of the members of the new firm of Waite & Webster, as the store will hereafter be called is well known in this city. Arthur Waite is a son of Charles Waite and has been engaged as an electrician by various concerns for some years past, recently at Lowell, from which place he hurried back to enter into business partnership with Edwy Webster.

For the past nine years has been the efficient stock man in charge of that department in the Belding-Hall company office. Mr. Webster is a son of Ira Webster, of the North side.

The young men have always been very popular among the people of this community and have always borne themselves so that the popularity has been well deserved and they will no doubt draw a splendid trade from the many acquaintances throughout the city, which together with the natural run of business from the immediate vicinity in which the store is located will make them prosperous merchants within a short time. They are deserving of a good business and we hope that they will get it and that their shadows may never grow less. Mr. Crammer, when asked as to his future labors, said to tell the people that it would be "Mr. Crammer for Florida for the good old winter time" and further than that he could not say. Phil Belding, who has been engaged as general all round man and deliveryman at the store for some time past has secured employment in the factory.

CARELESS SHOOTING NEARLY TAKES INNOCENT BYSTANDER'S LIFE

RIFLE SHOT PASSES THROUGH LADY'S HAT CAUSING SCALP WOUND—ORDNANCE PROHIBITS SHOOTING.

A bullet from a small caliber rifle in the hands of a boy who gave the name of Cecil McClellan, came very near causing serious injury or perhaps death to Mrs. Carroll Spicer, when she, together with Mr. Spicer and their baby were driving into the city Sunday morning at about 10:20 o'clock to spend the day at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Spicer, and while it continued on its way without doing other damage than a bad scalp wound, the bullet might have taken a heavier toll and should be taken as a caution to others who are wont to fire rifles and the like in the city or otherwise.

The accident happened just north of the Brinton F. Hall orchard on West State street and the Spicer family were in a buggy on their way coming east into town, when some boys, who were hunting over in the orchard, started a rabbit, which started toward the road. The McClellan boy raised his rifle and shot at the rabbit, but the bullet either went wild or it struck a stone and glanced, at any rate it hit Mrs. Spicer instead and passed through her hat and inflicted a severe scalp wound and then passed on through the other side of the hat. The wound bled freely and Mrs. Spicer was cared for by Dr. Dutt, who pronounced it a slight wound and not dangerous.

After the shooting, the boy was hunted up and he admitted firing the shot, but said that he had aimed at a rabbit and could not see how the bullet was able to hit anything or anyone but the rabbit. He regretted that the shot had been fired and although he was conscious that there might be trouble in store for him, he did not try to evade the matter any.

With Mr. and Mrs. Spicer at the time was their baby and should the shot have hit the child's delicate little head instead of that of a more mature person, the chances are quite certain that a life would have been sacrificed for the carelessness of a youthful hunter who had no business hunting inside the city limits and who even where hunting is permissible, should be more than ordinarily careful in what direction he is firing when discharging a firearm of any description.

There is an ordinance in the city which prohibits the discharging of firearms within the city limits and this local law could be brought into play and trouble made for someone, but inasmuch as that no more serious injury was sustained than Mrs. Spicer received, it is unlikely that the parties who had such a narrow escape will enter complaint and the offender will have undoubtedly learned a lesson that will stick by him for a long time to come.

TAXES

Treasurer's Notice for the Collection of Taxes.

Notice is hereby given that I will be in the treasurer's office at the City hall, Belding, Mich., Dec. 10, 1918, at 1 o'clock p. m., for the collection of state, county and school taxes that have been assessed and levied in the city of Belding. Office will be open every afternoon and evening until further notice.

Wm. E. Fisher,
City Treasurer.

"The Light in the Clearing."

We Replace Old Furnaces

With a Holland in one day. Burns any kind of fuel. Easy terms. Estimate free. Branch office, Citizens phone 308.

G. M. Smith

Belding. Phone us for Yours.

Gleaner Notice.

The next Gleaner meeting will be at the home of Ed. Condon, Thursday, December 12.

A Detestable Thief.

Some person or persons living in this city or close around it have sunk to the rather low level of stealing U. S. flags off from the graves of soldiers who lie buried in the cemeteries here. A certain mother of a young soldier who made the supreme sacrifice within the past few months, has been missing the flags which had been placed on the grave of her son and on Sunday, just about dusk she left the grave after having made a visit there. Monday morning when she again visited the grave the flag was gone. The information has been given that it is a certain young man in this city who is to blame for the missing flags and should he be caught at it, it may go rather rough with him for a short time.

Well Showered.

Monday evening the Young Ladies' Sodality of St. Joseph's Catholic church gave a kitchen shower at the home of Cecelia Hanson in honor of Mrs. Carl Gasper, formerly Miss Belle Parker.

About 25 were present and many and useful gifts were given her. The evening was spent in playing games, music, etc. Light refreshments were served, after which all wishing the bride a happy life, departed for their homes.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION (Official.)

Notice is hereby given that a general registration for the women electors of the city and for all male electors who are not at present registered will be held in the council chambers in the city hall on Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, between the hours of 8 o'clock a. m. and 8 o'clock p. m., the board of registration being in session at that time for the purpose of registering the names of all persons presenting themselves for such registration for the purpose of qualifying themselves as electors for the special election which will be held in this city on Tuesday, December 17, 1918.

F. E. Conant,
Clerk of City of Belding.
Dated Wednesday, November 20, 1918.

LADY MACCABEES OF IONIA COUNTY TO SWARM DEC. 6

ALL DAY PROGRAM IS ARRANGED—GREAT HIVE OFFICERS TO BE PRESENT AND TALK.

Friday is to be a big day in the history of the local hive of the Ladies of the Maccabees for they are to be the hostesses of the Ionia County Maccabee association and the local ladies are planning on doing the matter up right and proving that the members of the association who come to this city on that date will not be disappointed in the enjoyment of a good time, for with the splendid program which has been prepared along with the other features which are so dear to the hearts of all these Lady Bees, how could they have aught but a good time?

The business of the association will be transacted in the Odd Fellow hall, starting at 10 o'clock in the morning, Friday, and will continue until dinner (Continued on Page Eight.)

AGED VERMONTVILLE WOMAN HEADS FIVE GENERATIONS



Top, Mrs. Frank Simons and Harold Thomas, Marguerite Simmons and Mrs. W. J. Craven.

Little Marguerite Simons, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Simons of Frankfort, where the father is in the U. S. Wireless service, has the distinction of bringing up the rear in a 5-generation procession which is headed by her great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Thomas, of Vermontville and who is now nearing her 96th milestone in life's journey. The homes of four of the parties appearing in the five generation picture are in this city with the exception that Harold Simons and his family are at Ludington during the time that he is in the service of the government as a wireless operator. Mrs. Thomas was one of the earliest settlers in Barry county and is present lives with her son, Eli, near Vermontville. Another son, J. H. Thomas, resides in this city. Mrs. W. J. Craven, her daughter, resides in this city, as does also Mrs. Frank Simons, her granddaughter. Harold Simons and his little three-year-old daughter, who is Mrs. Thomas' great-great-granddaughter reside at Frankfort.

The photo above was taken some time last summer when Harold Simons was on a furlough and was taken at the home of his great-grandmother near Vermontville. The young lady bears the distinction of having six grandmothers and three grandfathers. Mrs. Thomas is enjoying fairly good health for a person of her advanced years.

DR. GEO. WALKER BUCKNER IS TO LECTURE HERE

IS SPECIALIST ON ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS—VICTORY BOYS AND GIRLS TO EARN MONEY SELLING TICKETS.

Belding is to enjoy a rare feast when Dr. George Walker Buckner, recently of Southport, England, now of Connellsville, Pa., delivers his great lecture on "Great Britain and the World War" at the M. E. church on Wednesday evening, Dec. 11.

Dr. Buckner has spoken to many large audiences during the past year to their delight and profit. A lawyer, an educator and a clergyman, he left America seven years ago and took residence in England and began the task of studying the empire with a view to interpreting her life to his American countrymen. Three years later the nation became involved in the world war and for four years he studied the nation at war.

While in England Dr. Buckner was signally honored by an invitation from the Church of Christ of Cricketh, Wales, to speak upon the occasion of the homecoming of the premier, David Lloyd-George, who is a member of that congregation.

The proceeds from the lecture will go to meet the county Y obligation to the support of the waste and foreign work, which items were not included in the recent United War Work campaign. Secretary Lee Hartwell did not consider it wise to solicit the community for these worthy causes so soon after the drive and so conceived the idea of bringing this strong lecturer into the county. The price of admission is 35c. As the Y. M. C. A. secretary is chairman of the Victory Boys in the county, he has submitted a ticket selling plan which will enable Victory Boys and Victory Girls to earn their pledges. Each boy and girl who sells 10 tickets will be given two tickets. One ticket may be used to attend the lecture and the other sold for 35c or both may be sold and the 70 cents will apply on the pledge. Principal L. Hockstad has charge of the sale of tickets.

A Thanksgiving Party.

Thanksgiving dawned very rainy and wet overhead as well as underfoot but that did not prevent the lively party from gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo Peterson on Morton avenue who gathered to enjoy the feast of good things as well as a good visit. Those present were Reuben Bralich, Mr. and Mrs. Cary Bralich and daughter, Nova, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Moore and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Conant of Belding, Mrs. M. E. Stults of Oakfield, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Blair and daughter, Velda of Muskegon.

At the noon hour all partook of a bountiful dinner consisting of roast turkey with dressing and all the other trimmings necessary to complete the menu, to which all did justice. They spent the remainder of the day in visiting and the little folks furnished singing and recitations and the grown ups sang "The Star Spangled Banner." At a late hour they wended their way home. Mr. Blair returned to Muskegon Friday morning. Mrs. Blair and daughter remained a few days longer. It was a day that will be remembered for some time.

Melvin Smith and family are staying with Don Dean since their house burned Saturday.